

SAFETY Network

November 2015

Michigan.gov/ohsp

Seat belt saves life of retired MSP post commander's daughter

Ashley Peet is alive today because she listened to her father.

On April 19, 2015, Ashley was a rear seat passenger in a friend's car when another vehicle failed to yield at a traffic signal in Courtland Township. Both vehicles sustained significant damage and Ashley suffered life-threatening injuries from the crash. She spent 19 days in intensive care and endured several surgeries. Without the use of her seat belt, the outcome would have likely been much worse.

In honor of this, the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) and AAA Michigan presented Ashley with the *Saved by the Belt* Award. The 23-year-old from Grand Rapids was recognized at a ceremony in Walker on October 23.

"Every family can learn from the Peet family," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "The lessons that parents teach their children about seat belt use last a lifetime. Jack Peet shared traffic safety messages for decades and Ashley adopted them. It



Ashley Peet (center) recently received the Saved by the Belt Award. On hand for the event were, from left, OHSP director Michael L. Prince, her parents Jack and Brenda Peet, and Gary Bubar, AAA Michigan.

Ashley's crucial decision to buckle up can be attributed to her father's advice. Jack Peet spent nearly 40 years in traffic safety with the Michigan State Police (MSP) and AAA Michigan. His persistence and passion for seat belt use helped save his daughter's life.

made all the difference in the world."

Ashley suffered a broken collar bone, four broken ribs, several chipped teeth, liver damage, and extensive bruising. She also lost her spleen and one third of her pancreas. **Belt** Continued on page 8 >

Operation C.A.R.E. focuses on safe Thanksgiving travel

By Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue
Director, Michigan State Police



As Michiganders prepare for a Thanksgiving holiday filled with food, family, and football, many are also gearing up for a holiday that includes travel. The MSP is preparing as well for our annual *Operation C.A.R.E.* (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) Thanksgiving traffic safety initiative.

The goal of *Operation C.A.R.E.* is to prevent traffic crashes and fatalities so every family can enjoy a safe and happy holiday season—or as we like to say, so everyone this Thanksgiving can "live to eat the leftovers."

Thanksgiving is the second deadliest holiday in Michigan for traffic fatalities behind Labor Day. In 2014, there were six traffic fatalities in six crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday, which was a significant decrease from 12 deaths that occurred in 11 traffic crashes during the 2013 Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Last year recorded the lowest number of fatalities over the Thanksgiving holiday period in more than 40 years.

Starting on Wednesday, November 25, and running through Sunday, November 29, troopers across the state will conduct high-visibility enforcement focusing on impaired driving, seat belt use, careless driving, and speeding. The extra patrols

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Ottawa County Deputy Pete Feliciano honored

Dep. Pete Feliciano, a 20-year veteran of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, received the 2015 Secondary Road Patrol (SRP) Deputy of the Year Award. The honor is presented to deputies and sergeants who show initiative, display a positive image of the sheriff's office, and demonstrate outstanding work performance.

Sponsored by the OHSP, in partnership

ies and villages. Managed by the OHSP, it has the legislated primary responsibility of traffic enforcement and traffic crash prevention on secondary roads.

Deputies funded under the program are responsible for traffic enforcement, traffic crash prevention and investigation, criminal law enforcement, and emergency assistance on secondary roadways.



OHSP's Julie Roth congratulates Dep. Pete Feliciano from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

with the Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA), the award was presented at the MSA Fall Training Conference.

Dep. Feliciano has worked with the SRP/416 program for 10 years. During his career he has issued more than 25,000 traffic citations, often receiving a positive response from the violators due to his professionalism and respect.

He is a staunch advocate for traffic safety and works closely with county schools to educate the staff, students, and parents about safe driving using the MSA driving simulator. In addition, Dep. Feliciano often attends Ottawa County community events to promote traffic safety.

The Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention program was created by Public Act 416 of 1978. This state grant program provides county sheriff offices with funding to patrol county and local roads outside the corporate limits of cit-

Eaton County assistant prosecutor receives award



During the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan annual conference, Eaton County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Chris Anderson received the David M. Schieber MADD Lifesaver Award. Anderson (center) is shown here with Eaton County Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Neil O'Brien (left) and Michigan Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Kenneth Stecker.



Save the Date

The 21st Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is

March 22-24, 2016,

at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.





SAFETY Network

Pedestrian study part of MDOT's *Toward Zero Deaths* effort

By Mark Bott
Michigan Department of Transportation



The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) embraces the *Toward Zero Deaths* (TZD) national strategy as a campaign to positively enhance road users' behavior and safety. With more than 35,000 fatalities occurring on U.S. highways each year, roadway safety remains one of the most challenging issues facing Michigan, and the nation. This campaign supports Michigan's own vision of TZD on Michigan's roadways as stated in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

The state's stated short-term goal was to reduce deaths from 889 in 2011 to 750 in 2016 by fostering effective communication, coordination, and collaboration among public and private entities. MDOT strives to ensure roads are as safe as possible in every stage from design to construction to long-term support of users on the roads.

The overall TZD strategy involves enhancing driver education, emergency response, enforcement, engineering, policy, communications, and other efforts that will move Michigan closer to zero fatalities. By incorporating safety into all facets of transportation, Michigan will achieve this vision. MDOT is involved in various safety efforts with its federal, state, and local partners. Without these partnerships, this vision will not be a reality. Keeping safety on the forefront of all MDOT practices helps move Michigan *Toward Zero Deaths*.

As part of an ongoing TZD effort, MDOT is currently funding a Western Michigan University research project testing new

crosswalk signs as potential low-cost safety measures to increase pedestrian safety and motorist awareness. Dr. Ron Van Houten, the traffic safety research expert leading the study, said it is already showing signs of increased pedestrian safety. "People are looking for pedestrians with the signs there," he said. "Our data shows drivers slow a bit, their heads are turning, and that is a good thing in an urban environment."

Carissa McQuiston, MDOT project manager and nonmotorized safety engineer, said the study is designed to increase pedestrian crossing awareness for pedestrians and drivers. Signs have been placed at crosswalks in the road at the edge lines, centerlines, and lane lines.

traffic, there has to be a balance of durability and cost. "Ideally, they will last a long time," he said. "It will cost the department more money if they have to replace them frequently."

The signs are designed to be permanently affixed to the pavement but have the capability of being removed for the winter when snow removal is necessary. They have been installed at 10 crosswalks in three roundabouts and six intersections in five MDOT Southwest Region communities: Allegan, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Marshall, and Three Rivers. The signs were removed in mid-November, and the research results are expected to be published early next year.

MDOT hopes this study, as well as other

Michigan Roadway Crash Statistics			
Year	Fatalities	Serious Injuries	Total
2008	980	6,725	7,705
2009	871	6,511	7,382
2010	937	5,980	6,917
2011	889	5,706	6,595
2012	936	5,676	6,612
2013	951	5,283	6,234
2014	876	4,909	5,785

"We have very good preliminary data that supports this installation as a way to inform drivers of pedestrian presence and highlight their crossing activity," McQuiston said. "With these installations, the researchers are collecting data about pedestrian safety, drivers yielding, and the durability of the signs."

Van Houten said while the signs are designed to withstand some abuse from

efforts, will help move Michigan roadways *Toward Zero Deaths*. For more information on the TZD campaign, visit MDOT's website at www.michigan.gov/zerodeaths

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CarFit helps older drivers

The number of older drivers is increasing. The U.S. Census Bureau has determined that by 2030, there will be an estimated 58.9 million people age 65 and older. Research suggests that older drivers are among the safest drivers because they are more likely to wear seat belts and less likely to speed or drink and drive. However, as people age, they're more likely to suffer serious injuries or risk death in crashes, due to greater fragility.



CarFit is an educational program that provides a quick, yet comprehensive review of how well older drivers and their vehicles work together. The program was developed by the American Automobile Association (AAA), the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

As we age, changes in vision, flexibility, strength, range of motion, and height may make us less comfortable and reduce our control behind the wheel. Personal mobility is critical for healthy aging, but ill-fitting vehicles can make it uncomfortable and unsafe to drive. Today's vehicles have many safety features that offer enhanced restraint and protection, yet many drivers

are unaware of those features or how to best use them. CarFit helps by exploring vehicle adjustment and developing strategies to achieve the safest fit.

During a 20-minute CarFit appointment, technicians review 12 key areas with older drivers, such as adequate space from the steering wheel, proper seat belt use, and properly adjusted head restraints. Technicians teach participants how to use and adjust safety devices, including how to position mirrors in order to minimize blind spots. Occupational therapists provide education to older drivers, including recommendations about adaptive devices. Drivers also receive educational material to take home.

The Michigan Trauma Coalition and Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak hosted CarFit training in August. More than 30 injury prevention coordinators, emergency medical technicians, occupational therapists, and other traffic safety partners were trained as CarFit technicians and coordinators.

Because CarFit events are held outside, the program is conducted from May to October in Michigan. If you are interested in hosting an event or would like more information, please visit the CarFit website at www.car-fit.org. Contact OHSP's Linda Fech, special projects coordinator, at fechl@michigan.gov or (517) 241-2533 to find a coordinator in your area.

Observing Older Driver Safety Awareness Week



AOTA's Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, December 7-11, aims to promote understanding of the importance of mobility and transportation to ensuring older adults remain active in the community—shopping, working or volunteering—with the confidence that transportation will not be the barrier to strand them at home. Throughout the week, AOTA will bring attention to a different aspect of older driver safety.

The association recommends highlighting the following issues:

- Identifying changes that can affect driving such as physical, cognitive, and emotional health.
- Holding a constructive, realistic conversation with an older driver as a family.
- Screening and evaluations with an occupational therapist to identify driving fitness.
- Finding equipment that can empower drivers, such as hand controls and seat belt attachments.
- Learning about and accepting alternative options for independent mobility.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has safety resources for older drivers on its website, NHTSA.gov, under Driving Safety.

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Distracted driving causing concern on Michigan roads

By Kinga Gorzelewski and Kenneth Stecker

Distracted driving is making headlines around the state these days. In August, a driver rear ended a minivan on I-196 in Ottawa County. A 13-year-old boy in the minivan was killed in that collision. The driver told police he was eating a sandwich and looking down at his GPS at the time of the crash. Nine other people were injured, six seriously, in that five-vehicle chain reaction crash. In October, a 17-year-old boy died on an Ottawa County road when his car crossed the center line and struck a vehicle heading the opposite direction. Police said the boy was texting at the time of the crash.

Distracted driving is more than just texting. It's any activity that takes your attention away from driving and puts you at a greater risk of being involved in a crash. Other activities that distract drivers include the following:

- Using a cell phone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading
- Using a navigation system
- Adjusting a radio or MP3 player

There are three main types of distraction:

- Visual—taking your eyes off the road.
- Manual—taking your hands off the wheel.
- Cognitive—taking your mind off of driving.

While all of the above activities endanger the driver and others sharing the same road, texting while driving is especially dangerous because it combines all three types of distractions. Five seconds is the

average time your eyes are off the road while texting. That's enough time to cover the length of a football field when traveling at 55mph.

In 2013, 3,154 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes around the country involving distracted drivers. Ten percent of all drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.

What are the states and the federal government doing?

Talking on a hand-held cellphone while driving is banned in 14 states and the District of Columbia.¹

Text messaging is banned for all drivers in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Thirty eight of these states have primary enforcement, meaning police officers can issue tickets for texting while driving even though they do not charge the driver with another offense. In addition, novice drivers are banned from texting in six states and school bus drivers are banned from text messaging in three states.²

On September 30, 2009, President Barack Obama issued an executive order prohibiting federal employees from texting while driving on government business or with government equipment.³ Additionally, on October 27, 2010, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration enacted a ban that prohibits commercial vehicle drivers from texting while driving.

WHAT IS MICHIGAN DOING?

In 2010, Michigan enacted a texting ban that reads in pertinent part as follows:

"Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not read, manually type, or send a text message on a wireless two-way communication device that is located in the person's hand or in the person's lap, including a wireless telephone used in cellular telephone service or personal communication service, while operating a motor vehicle

*that is moving on a highway or street in this state."*⁴

Fines are \$100 for a first offense, \$200 for a subsequent offense, and it is a civil infraction.⁶ However, the law does not cover such activities as reading and writing emails, checking Facebook, or watching a streaming Detroit Tigers baseball game.

In March 2013, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law "Kelsey's Law" that reads in pertinent part as follows:

*"Except as provided in this section, an individual issued a level 1 or level 2 graduated license under section 310e shall not use a cellular telephone while operating a motor vehicle upon a highway or street. For purposes of this subsection, 'use' means to initiate a call; answer a call; or listen to or engage in verbal communication through the cellular telephone."*⁷

A violation of the law is a civil infraction and carries a \$100 fine, court costs, and potential license suspension or extension of the probationary period.⁸

The law is named after Kelsey Raffaele, a teenager from Sault St. Marie, who died in a 2010 car crash while talking on her cell phone.

Lastly, as of October 2013, a law prohibits commercial motor vehicle drivers and bus drivers from reading, manually typing, or sending a text message on a wireless two-way communication device that is located in the person's hand or in the person's lap, including a wireless telephone used in cellular telephone service or personal communication service.

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DISTRACTED *Continued from page 5 >*

WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO BE SAFE ON MICHIGAN ROADWAYS?

The Centers for Disease and Control Prevention makes the following recommendations:

Steps for all drivers:

- Model safe behavior behind the wheel—never text and drive.
- Always stay focused and alert when driving.
- Take the pledge—commit to distraction-free driving.
- Speak out if the driver in your car is distracted.
- Encourage friends and family to designate their cars a “no phone” zone when driving.

STEPS FOR PARENTS OF TEEN DRIVERS:

- Know and obey the laws in your state.
- Discuss what it means to be a safe driver with your teen and set ground rules for when they are behind the wheel.
- Make a family pledge and have other members in your family commit to distraction-free driving.
- Set a positive example by putting your cell phone away every time you drive.⁹

CONCLUSION

Using a cell phone on the roadways in Michigan is unsafe at any age. The bottom

line is that texting while driving is illegal. The best advice is that if an individual receives a cell phone call while driving, she/he should let voicemail answer it and/or call back when she/he can stop at a safe area. Common sense always should dictate paying attention to the road while driving!

For more information on this article and PAAM training programs, contact Kenneth Stecker or Kinga Gorzelewski, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, at (517) 334-6060 or e-mail at steckerk@michigan.gov or gorzelewskik@michigan.gov. Please consult your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by reports in this article. Discuss your practices that relate to this article with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practice.

¹ www.iihs.org/laws/cellphonelaws.aspx

² Id.

³ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Regulations. Available from: www.distraction.gov/content/dot-action/regulations.html

⁴ Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Limiting the Use of Wireless Communication Devices. Washington DC: US Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 2011. Available from: www.fmcsa.dot.gov/

⁵ Michigan Compiled Law 257.602b

⁶ Id.

⁷ Michigan Compiled Law 257.602c

⁸ Id.

⁹ www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Distracted_Driving.



Nominations sought for CPS Technician of the year

All traffic safety partners are invited to nominate for the Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year recognition program. Complete the nomination form to honor a car seat expert in your community.

Applications are available at www.michigan.gov/ohsp and are due November 30. The award winner will receive a scholarship to attend a national traffic safety conference.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign



Motorists will be encouraged to designate a sober driver this holiday season as part of our *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign, December 16-January 2.



SAFETY Network

MADD honors law enforcement officers

Through the Lifesavers Law Enforcement Recognition Awards, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Michigan honored law enforcement officers for their commitment to impaired driving enforcement. Nearly 100 nominations were submitted.

The 2015 MADD Michigan Lifesavers Award recipients included:



OLIVIA CLEVELAND GRATITUDE AWARD

Tpr. **Matthew Unterbrink**, MSP Metro Post
Oakland County Sheriff's **Alcohol Enforcement Unit**

OUTSTANDING TROOPER

Tpr. **Christopher Carns**, MSP Paw Paw Post
Tpr. **John Janicki**, MSP St. Ignace Post
Tpr. **Ryan Kirkpatrick**, MSP Metro Post
Tpr. **Jim Tompkins**, MSP Lakeview Post
Tpr. **Eric Whitcomb**, MSP Metro Post

OUTSTANDING DEPUTY

Dep. **Eric Calhoun**, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
Dep. **Nathan Kaminski**, Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office
Dep. **Mark Osos**, Macomb County Sheriff's Office
Dep. **Andrew Wiswasser**, Clinton County Sheriff's Office

OUTSTANDING OFFICER

Ofcr. **Gary Abair**, Detroit Police Department
Ofcr. **Timothy Anderson**, Ypsilanti Police Department
Ofcr. **Matt Bowyer**, Zeeland Police Department
Ofcr. **Dustin Brown**, Lowell Police Department
Ofcr. **Damon Bryant**, Southfield Police Department
Ofcr. **Dave DeKorte**, East Lansing Police Department
Ofcr. **Frank Gregory**, Detroit Police Department
Ofcr. **Zachary Gregory**, Greenville Police Department
Cpl. **Jason Otter**, Romulus Police Department
Ofcr. **Mindy Weingart**, Troy Police Department

OUTSTANDING ROOKIE

Ofcr. **Mark Aldrich**, Belleville Police Department
Tpr. **Casey Allison**, MSP Metro Post
Ofcr. **Jason Bergtold**, Novi Police Department
Ofcr. **James Briggs**, Adrian Township Police Department
Ofcr. **Sean Brown**, Oxford Police Department
Ofcr. **Bradley Clair**, Dearborn Police Department
Ofcr. **Sonila Kalanxhi**, Southfield Police Department
Ofcr. **Sean Leathers**, Imlay City Police Department
Tpr. **David Skeans**, MSP Metro Post
Ofcr. **Robert Smith**, Troy Police Department

OUTSTANDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Clinton County Sheriff's Office

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Ofcr. **Tom Danielson**, Beverly Hills Police Department
Dep. **Brian Matthews**, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
Tpr. **Greg Primeau**, MSP Iron Mountain Post
Ofcr. **Kenneth Rochon**, Southfield Police Department
Ofcr. **Jason Tonti**, Detroit Police Department

MADD CAREER ACHIEVEMENT (DEPUTY LEW TYLER) AWARD

Dep. **Rick Cigile**, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

What's Ahead

DECEMBER

- 2 **Traffic Incident Management Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 **Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.

JANUARY

- 14 **Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.
- 21 **Motorcycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 10 **Drivers Age 24 and Younger Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 333 S. Grand Ave., Lansing, 1:30 p.m.

SAFETY Network

UD-10 changes are coming in January

Starting on January 1, 2016, the State of Michigan will be implementing a revised UD-10 Traffic Crash Report.

The purpose of the revision is to allow Michigan to become more federally compliant in our crash reporting in order to provide the most accurate and complete crash data.

The revised UD-10 has remained a single page, two-sided report. New fields have been added and several were redesigned.

Contributing Circumstances. This new field consists of several external factors outside of the vehicle that may have contributed to the crash. It also allows the officer to make up to two choices if needed.

The choices include:

- Prior crash
- Backup due to regular congestion
- Backup due to other incident
- Glare
- Traffic control device inoperative/missing

- Shoulders (none, low, soft, high)

Driver Distracted By. This new field was created to capture several different areas that may have caused the driver to become distracted. It covers both internal and external distractions that may have contributed to the crash.

The choices include:

- Operating an electronic communication device (texting, typing, dialing)
- Talking on hands-free electronic device
- Talking on hand-held electronic device
- Other activity electronic device (book player, navigation aid)
- Passenger
- Other activity inside the vehicle (eating, personal hygiene)
- Outside the vehicle (includes unspecified external distractions)

Deleted fields. The following areas are no longer required and have been removed from 2016 UD-10:

- Incident disposition
- Special study
- Access control
- Driveable (captured under extent of damage)
- Person advised of damaged traffic control
- Carrier source
- Interstate/intrastate
- Restrictions for CDL's
- Truck/bus vehicle type
- Type & axles per unit

For training opportunities, brochure requests, or information on the 2016 UD-10, please contact Sgt. Scott Carlson, MSP Criminal Justice Information Center, at (517) 241-1312 or carlsons1@michigan.gov.

Belt *Continued from page 1 >*

"After talking with the doctors, there's no doubt that wearing a seat belt saved Ashley's life," Jack Peet said. "She is so glad she put on the belt that day. I spent my whole life trying to help people understand the importance of traffic safety and it paid off by saving my daughter. You never think it's going to happen this close to home."

Ashley was nominated for the award by Tpr. Brian Komm of the MSP Rockford Post.

"*Saved by the Belt* is another great way to remind drivers and passengers about the importance of wearing seat belts," said Susan Hiltz, AAA Michigan public affairs director. "We remain committed to this

excellent program and hope others will benefit from Ashley's experience."

The program is a joint effort between the OHSP and AAA Michigan which encourages law enforcement agencies to recognize safe motorists and help increase public awareness about the life-saving value of seat belt use.

Nomination forms are available at www.michigan.gov/ohsp under resources in the Law Enforcement Programs section. If you have any questions or need additional information about *Saved by the Belt*, contact OHSP's Alyson Kechkaylo, occupant protection coordinator, at (517) 241-2546 or kechkayloA@michigan.gov.



SAFETY Network

New report calls for expanding teen safe driving efforts

Despite progress in recent decades, motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death among teens in the U.S. In 2013, nearly 4,000 drivers 15-20 years old were involved in fatal crashes. A strong economy means more disposable income that puts more teens at risk on the road—often in older cars without the latest safety features.

Many states already have strong teen driver licensing laws and programs promoting parent involvement, both essential for addressing teen crash risk. But achieving further reductions in novice driver crashes, injuries, and fatalities will require enlisting the help of other adults who have the opportunity and capacity to positively influence teens.

Under Their Influence: The New Teen Safe Driving Champions, a new report from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), provides fresh insight and examples of how states can partner with these

non-traditional adult influencers. The report was researched and written by national teen driving expert Pam Fischer, and guided by a panel of teen safe driving experts.

While parents are still the number one influence on their novice drivers, teens



spend much of their day with other adults. Teens 15-17 years old spend on average five hours a day in school plus additional

time engaging in other activities such as working or playing sports. The adults that teens interact with during this time—teachers, employers, coaches—can all help guide teens to make smart and safe driving choices.

“While parents are key, teens may not have strong—or any—parental involvement, and nearly all teens spend a great deal of time around other adults,” said Jonathan Adkins, GHSA executive director. “These role models have a tremendous opportunity to help educate teens and inspire them to make safe choices behind the wheel.”

The report provides ideas and examples to further activate the community to support safe teen driving by reaching teens where they spend their time.

For more information go to <http://www.ghsa.org/html/media/pressreleases/2015/20151019teens.html>

Drive Slow on Ice and Snow message to be featured on I-94



One of Michigan’s most heavily traveled interstates, I-94, will be the focus of a winter weather campaign that cautions everyone to *Drive Slow on Ice and Snow*.

Motorists in metro Detroit, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek, and Kalamazoo are sure to see billboards throughout the winter driving season that feature the No. 1 winter safe driving tip: slow down.

“Too often drivers fail to slow down in snow or icy conditions. Even a dusting of snow can cause roads to become slippery,” said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director.

Last winter a 193-vehicle crash on I-94 near Climax generated national news stories. It caused the closure of both eastbound and westbound lanes for two days while agencies worked to remove dam-

aged vehicles and hazardous materials. Following a thorough investigation, the MSP reported, the primary cause was determined to be drivers traveling too fast for the roadway conditions.

“Most winter weather-related crashes on freeways set off a chain reaction, mixing commercial motor vehicles with passenger cars,” said Prince. “Adjusting your speed appropriately for conditions can avoid those chain reaction crashes and keep the roads safer for everyone.”

In addition to billboards, drivers in southern Michigan will see web ads. Other materials will be available statewide, including banners, posters, flyers, and public service announcements.

The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute determined that from **SNOW** *Continued on page 10 >*

SAFETY Network



Save the date!

The Pedestrian and Bicyclist

Safety Conference is

April 29-30, 2016,

at the Comfort Inn and Suites

Hotel and Conference Center

in Mount Pleasant.

Focusing on pedestrian behavior near railroads



A picture-perfect day can end in tragedy for anyone taking photographs on or near railroad tracks.

That is one of the reasons that Michigan Operation Lifesaver continues to raise public awareness of potential highway-railroad grade crossing hazards and improve driver and pedestrian behavior at these intersections. It is part of a national, nonprofit continuing education program dedicated to ending tragic collisions, fatalities, and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights of way.

Photographers and their subjects, and anyone else near railroad tracks, need to remember these safety tips:

- Be aware that trains cannot stop quickly. Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes

are applied. That's at least 18 football fields.

- Do not be fooled by the optical illusion—the train you see is closer and faster moving than you think! If you see a train approaching, always wait for it to go by before you proceed across the tracks.
- Remember that railroad property is private property. Walking or hiking on the railroad tracks is trespassing, a criminal offense. Each year nearly 500 people die and hundreds more are injured while trespassing on railroad property.
- Always expect a train. Freight trains do not follow set schedules.

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November 2013-February 2014, there were 3,171 crashes on I-94 when road conditions were considered icy or snowy.

The majority of winter driving crashes can be attributed to drivers going too fast for the roadway conditions. When this happens, drivers can lose control and begin to leave the roadway. Driving slow on snowy and icy roads allows the driver a longer reaction time. It can take up to 10 times longer to stop in snowy or icy weather. Drivers should be prepared to look ahead and begin braking well in advance of an intersection.

Drive Slow on Ice and Snow materials are available to order at www.michigan.gov/ohsp. The campaign will run November through February, the peak winter months in Michigan.

C.A.R.E. Continued from page 1 >

are paid for with federal traffic safety funds coordinated by the OHSP.

This effort is supported by a public awareness campaign called *Give thanks. Drive safely.* It uses familiar, traditional Thanksgiving imagery to encourage safe and responsible driving. In addition to posters, banners, and placemats, the campaign also includes a public service announcement available at www.youtube.com/OHSP.

New this year, the MSP has partnered with the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association to distribute drink coasters with the tag line, 'Safety is Your Best Defense.' to their member bars and restaurants. This partnership is an added push to encourage safe and responsible

driving, especially given that the night before Thanksgiving has the reputation as a popular night to frequent bars and other drinking establishments.

Operation C.A.R.E. is a nationwide traffic safety initiative that seeks to reduce traffic crashes and fatalities through public information, education, and traffic enforcement focusing on major holiday travel periods.

Operation C.A.R.E. began in 1977 as a collaborative effort between the MSP and the Indiana State Police. Today, as one of the nation's longest running traffic safety initiatives, it includes participation from state and highway patrol agencies in all 50 states, as well as some American territories and Canadian provinces.

SAFETY Network

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